



Guide to the Ruthe Deskin Papers

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on March 28, 2022. Please contact special.collections@unlv.edu for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f17g7r>

© 2022 The Regents of the University of Nevada. All rights reserved.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

special.collections@unlv.edu

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical Note	3
Scope and Contents Note	4
Arrangement Note	5
Administrative Information	5
Names and Subjects	5
Collection Inventory	6

Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Deskin, Ruthe, 1916-2004
Title:	Ruthe Deskin Papers
ID:	MS-00357
Date [inclusive]:	1933-2004
Date [bulk]:	1950-2004
Physical Description:	0.65 Cubic Feet (1 box, 1 flat file)
Physical Description:	2.21 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Ruthe Deskin Papers (1933-2004) document Deskin's career as a journalist and community activist in Nevada. The papers include Deskin's "Back and Forth" columns, newspaper articles about Deskin, awards and certificates, legal documents, correspondence, photographs, obituaries and memorials, convention programs from the Nevada Press Association, and biographical ephemera. The collection also contains certificates recognizing Deskin's work with Nevada youth from Greenspun Junior High School and Ruthe Deskin Elementary School, as well as the Boy Scouts of America and the Clark County Juvenile Court.

Preferred Citation

Ruthe Deskin Papers, 1933-2004. MS-00357. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical Note

Ruthe Deskin was a journalist and an activist for youth causes in Southern Nevada. Deskin was born on February 20, 1916 in Yerington, Nevada and studied journalism at the University of Nevada, Reno. After graduating, she became the women's editor of the *Reno Evening Gazette*. In

1948, she moved to Las Vegas and subsequently worked for the KENO talk radio station for four years. In 1954, Nevada journalist Hank Greenspun hired Deskin to work as his personal assistant at the *Las Vegas Sun*, a position she held for almost fifty years. In addition to her administrative duties, she was also a writer, regularly publishing a column called "Back and Forth." Her columns often championed rights of women, children, and seniors. She was elected President of the Las Vegas Press Club in 1954, and would later go on to become the Nevada State Press Association President.

Deskin received numerous awards and honors for her work in journalism and the Nevada community, including the "Woman of the Year" from the Nevada Women's Political Caucus; the Silver Makeup Rule award from the Nevada Press Association in 1984; the "Woman of Achievement Award" from the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce in 1987; having the Las Vegas city council, county commissioners, and governor of Nevada proclaim a "Ruthe Deskin Day" on October 12, 1980; being memorialized by both the Nevada State Legislature (1989) and Congressional Record (1984); having Ruthe Deskin Elementary School dedicated to her in 1989; and being elected to the Nevada Journalism Hall of Fame in 1998.

She also served on several boards dedicated to helping young people, such as the Clark County Juvenile Welfare Advisory Board, American Cancer Society, Westcare Board, Clark County Juvenile Probation Committee, the Spring Mountain Youth Camp Advisory Board and was the director of the Sun Youth Forum and the Sun Camp Fund.

Ruthe Deskin died in Las Vegas, Nevada on February 14, 2004.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents Note

The Ruthe Deskin Papers (1933-2004) document the career of Nevada journalist and community activist, Ruthe Deskin. The papers include Deskin's "Back and Forth" columns, newspaper articles about Deskin, award certificates, legal documents, correspondence, photographs, obituaries and memorials, event programs, and biographical ephemera. The collection also contains certificates recognizing Deskin's work with Nevada youth from Greenspun Junior High School and Ruthe Deskin Elementary School, as well as the Boy Scouts of America and the Clark County Juvenile Court. The papers illustrate Deskin's five decades in journalism, including working as the personal assistant to the editor of the *Las Vegas Sun*, and as the president of the Las Vegas Press Club and Nevada State Press Association. Materials also relate to Deskin's bowling team.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement Note

Materials are arranged alphabetically.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1995 by Ruthe Deskin and in 2006 by Terry Gialketsis; accession number 1995-037.

Processing Note

Material was processed by Special Collections staff in 1995. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Lindsay Oden revised the collection and entered the data into ArchivesSpace. In 2018, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Billy Marino rehoused and arranged the materials and revised the description in ArchivesSpace.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Women journalists -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Columnist -- Las Vegas (NEV) Newspaper
- Newspapers -- Writing -- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- 20th century
- Women in community development -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Bowling
- Juvenile corrections -- Nevada -- Clark County

- photographs

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
"Back and Forth" column, newspaper clippings, 1999-2003	box 01
Biographical information, obituaries and memorials, 1994-2004	box 01
Bowling league, newspaper clippings, photographs, and program, approximately 1951-1999	box 01
Certificates and honors, 1968-1994	box 01
Child Haven newspaper clippings, newsletters, and photographs, 1970-1997	box 01
Correspondence, 1945-1994	box 01
Legal matters, court subpoena, and newsletter clippings, 1975, undated	box 01
Newspaper clippings, 1950-2000 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 01
Photographic prints of Ruthe Deskin and her family and friends, 1933-1994, undated	box 01
Programs and agendas, 1933-1994, undated	box 01
Yerington, Nevada photographic prints and newspaper and magazine clippings, undated	box 01
"Yerington Years" and "Ruthe's Denmark Heritage" printed photograph collages and State of Nevada Assembly Resolution No. 14 certificate, 1989 May 05, undated	flat file 02